

Job Sheet for

Filter Strips as Wildlife Habitat

(393, 645)

Purpose: A **filter strip** is an area of vegetation used to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff and waste water by filtration, deposition, and absorption, thereby reducing pollution and protecting the environment.

Requirements:

- **Minimum** width **20 feet**, maximum width 100 feet
- Natural, permanent regenerating (perennial) vegetation is maintained to substantially reduce sediment and other pollutant runoff
 - **Note:** Native vegetation, including reseeding annuals, may be used
- In critical erosion areas, a temporary cover crop may be used
 - **Suggested temporary cover crops:** **Spring**—browntop and proso millet; **Fall**—rye, oats, or wheat; Perennials—native warm-season grasses such as switchgrass, Indiangrass, little bluestem grass, Eastern gammagrass, or Atlantic Coast panicgrass
 - **Reseeding annuals**—partridge pea, Kobe or Korean lespedeza
- On pastureland, protect filter strip from grazing

Maintenance:

- Filter strips should be maintained in an early successional stage by disking one-third of their area yearly on a 3-year cycle
- Leave a minimum of 15 feet undisturbed each year
 - **Note:** **DO NOT disk from April 1–September 1**

Primary Habitat Considerations:

- Nesting and brood habitat for quail and various songbirds
- Natural food and cover for quail, rabbits, doves, and turkeys



Filter Strips

Site Specific Comments and Recommendations:

USDA-NRCS South Carolina
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